

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 are pending. In the present amendment, Claim 1 is currently amended and Claim 7 is added. Support for the present amendment can be found in the original specification, at least in Figures 2-8, 11, 13, 15, and 16 and the corresponding description. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-6 were objected to; Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Ogsawara et al. (Japanese Patent Publication No. 2003/144990, hereinafter “Ogsawara”); Claims 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ogsawara in view of Baba et al. (Japanese Patent Publication No. 06/262564, hereinafter “Baba”); and Claims 1-3 were provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory double patenting over Claims 1, 2, and 5 of U.S. Application No. 10/581,297 in view of Ogsawara.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank Supervisory Patent Examiner Meeks and Examiner Louie for the courtesy of extending a personal interview to Applicants’ representative on December 10, 2009. During the interview, Applicants’ representative described the coating method shown in Figures 2-8 and 11, and also discussed the coating method in Ogsawara. Specifically, it was discussed that the turning paths of the claimed invention form a series of steps and that the turning paths from the adjacent coating areas face one another, an exemplary embodiment of which can be seen in Figures 2-8 and 11. The Examiners agreed that the turning paths of Ogsawara do not face one another. Accordingly, the present amendment was developed in view of the interview, and is hereby presented for formal consideration.

Regarding the objection to Claims 1-6, it is noted that Claim 1 is hereby amended to replace “turnings paths” with “turning paths,” as suggested in section 1 on page 2 of the Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that that objection to Claims 1-6 be withdrawn.

Turning now to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these rejections and traverse these rejections, as discussed below.

As discussed above, Claim 1 is hereby amended to clarify that the two coating areas recited in Claim 1 include adjacent edges that have turning paths which face one another. Further, the coating areas are situated to completely coat the object between them. It is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not disclose or suggest every feature recited in independent Claim 1.

As discussed during the interview and as can be seen in drawing 2 of Ogsawara, adjacent coating areas 1R and 1L do not have turning paths that face one another. Further, the area between coating areas 1L and 2L is not completely coated. Additionally, the coating areas 3L and 3R that cover the trunk have turning paths that overlap and do not form the claimed series of steps.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Ogsawara does not disclose or suggest every feature recited in independent Claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claim 1, and Claims 2 and 3 which depend on Claim 1, as anticipated by Ogsawara be withdrawn.

Regarding Claims 4-6, it is noted that Claims 4-6 depend on Claim 1, and thus are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1. Further, it is respectfully submitted that Baba does not cure the above-noted deficiencies of

Ogsawara. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 4-6 as unpatentable over Ogsawara in view of Baba be withdrawn.

New Claim 7 is added by the present amendment. Support for new Claim 7 can be found in the original specification, for example, in Figures 2-8 and 11. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added. Further, as Claim 7 depends on Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 7 patentably defines over the cited references for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1.

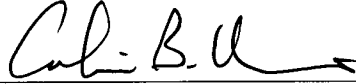
With regard to the non-statutory double patenting rejection of Claims 1-3 over Claims 1, 2, and 5 of U.S. Application No. 10/581,297 in view of Ogsawara, that rejection is respectfully traversed in light of the terminal disclaimer submitted herewith.

It is noted that the filing of a Terminal Disclaimer to obviate a rejection based on non-statutory double patenting is not an admission of the propriety of the rejection. The “filing of a terminal disclaimer simply serves the statutory function of removing the rejection of double patenting, and raises neither a presumption nor estoppel on the merits of the rejection.” *Quad Environmental Technologies Corp. v. Union Sanitary District*, 946 F.2d 870, 20 USPQ2d 1392 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Accordingly, the filing of the attached disclaimer is provided for facilitating a timely resolution to prosecution only, and should not be interpreted as an admission as to the merits of the obviated rejection.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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